FOTEDAR):(a) The Letter of Intent was transferred in favour of M/s. Bihar Sponge Iron Limited in March, 1986.

(b) Progress has been satisfactory and the plant is expected to commence production very shortly.

(c) There has not been undue delay in this project.

Sick Sugar Mills in the Country

1130. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any sick sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof;

(c) whether these sick sugar mills are incurring heavy losses;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to rehabilitate these units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (e) The sugar industry being a seasonal industry, subject to fluctuations due to a number of factors, the Department of food have not evolved parameters for quantifying sickness in the industry. However, 28 sugar factories did not work during 1988-89 season due to various reasons such as non-availability of sugarcane, financial and mangerial problems, labour troubles, etc. Financial assistance at concessional rate of interest for rehabilitation/ modernisation of uneconomic Sugar Units as well as for sugarcane development is made available from the Sugar Development Fund.

Concurrence for Exclusive order for Pesticides

1131. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought concurrence of the Central Government to issue an exclusive order - 'The pesticides' (Quality control) Order, 1988 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Central Government had accorded concurrence thereto and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Andhra Pradesh Government had sought concurrence of the Central Government to issue an exclusive Order, namely, the Andhra Pradesh Insecticide (Quality Control) Order, 1988 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The said Order, *inter alia*, provided for the following matters:

(i) Prohibition of sale or manufacture of insecticides without licences;
(ii) Prohibition of manufacture, sale, etc. of sub-standard insecticides; and
(iii) Sanction of prosecution.

(b) Since the matters, envisaged to be regulated by the proposed Special Order of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, are adequately covered under the Insecticides Act, 1968, the State Government has been advised that the issuance of the said Order would not serve much purpose.

Loss to NCCF on purchase of Arhar Whole with the connivance of Mahal Cooperative Society

1132. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1412 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7-8-87 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into this case has been completed and action taken

against those found responsible for awarding the contract to M/s. Joyti Dal Udyog for processing of pulses without approval of the competent authority; if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that there were allegations against the Branch Incharge, Nagpur of having purchased stocks of 'Arhar Whole' at rates higher than the market rates with the connivance of 'Mahal Cooperative Society'?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The case which was referred to CBI for investigations was returned by them. The NCCF conducted departmental enquiries and on the basis of the enquiry report, departmental action against the officer concerned is now under process.

Production and import of oilseeds

1133. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of oil-seeds produced in the year 1987-88 and the anticipated yield for 1988-89; and

(b) whether the imports of edible oils is likely to be reduced; if so, the estimated amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved therefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) The quantity of oilseeds produced in the year 1987-88 and the anticipated production for 1988-89 are about 123.00 lakh tonnes and 145 to 155 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) In the context of the prospect of excellent crop, the import of edible oils is likely to be substantially reduced. The saving in foreign exchange would be in proportion to the reduction in the import of edible oils, international prices of edible oils and the future trend in the availability and prices of indigenous oils.

Activities of Property Dealers

1134. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 1,000 D.D.A. Janta flats are ready near Water Tank in Keshavapuram (Lawrence Road) North Delhi and have been allotted or are being allotted to the registered applicant;

(b) whether Government are aware that several so called 'Property Dealers' or 'Estate agents' have fixed their advertisement boards near these flats and are offering flats to outsiders on sale at exorbitant prices, more than the D.D.A. prices of these flats, with the connivance of the allottes of flats; and

(c) if so, whether Government would institute immediate Enquiries into the *modusoperandi* of these property dealers and find out how some of them have come to occupy flats in the Janata Scheme mentioned above and put a stop to their illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some property dealers have put their boards near these flats.

(c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that they are enquiring into the matter.

Setting up of agro-based Food Processing Industries in Kerala

1135. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state whether Government propose to establish any Food Processing